

S" M -59

NEWTOWN MANOR HOUSE

mid-18th century, 1816

~~Leonardtown~~ Compton

Private

The existing 2½-story brick manor house is an 1816 alteration of the original 18th century building. This initial stage involved a 1½-story gambrel-roofed structure, five bays in length at the facade elevations and two rooms deep. Alterations made to the building included raising the roof to two full stories and changing its design to that of a gable roof with jerkin heads. Two large chimneys are enclosed within the end wall of the house, as they were originally. Almost all of the interior fabric, window sash, and exterior treatment such as doors and the eave cornices, are of the Federal period.

St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church and Newtown Manor House mark a location and site important in the 17th century ecclesiastical history of Maryland. From this area of Newtown Neck and from other locations in Southern Maryland and the Eastern Shore, English Jesuit priests conducted missionary activities among the Indians and ministered to the needs of the settlers beginning in the 1630's and 1640's.

Also see Archaeological listing.

This property has been included on the National Register of Historic Places, United States Department of the Interior.

Form 10-300
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland	
COUNTY: St. Mary's	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME				
COMMON: St. Francis Xavier Church and Newtown Manor House Historic District				
AND/OR HISTORIC: St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church & Newtown Manor House				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Newtown Neck, east side of Md. Rt. 243, 1.5 mi. south of Compton				
CITY OR TOWN: Compton				
STATE Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: St. Mary's	CODE 037	
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Bath		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific _____				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Archdiocese of Washington Contact: Patrick Cardinal A. O'Boyle				
STREET AND NUMBER: 1721 Rhode Island Avenue, N. W.				
CITY OR TOWN: Washington		STATE: Dist. of Columbia	CODE 11	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Hall of Records				
STREET AND NUMBER: St. John's College Campus, College Avenue				
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis		STATE: Maryland	CODE 24	
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust				
STREET AND NUMBER: 94 College Avenue				
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis		STATE: Maryland	CODE 24	

STATE: Maryland	COUNTY: St. Mary's	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Francis Xavier Church and Newtown Manor House Historic District, supported by 700 acres of farmland one hundred yards to the southeast, is located on Newtown Neck on the east side of Maryland Route 243, 1.5 mile south of Compton, Maryland.

St. Francis Xavier Church is a frame, rectangular building with two octagonally-shaped brick additions: one on the northwest (entrance); a second addition on the southeast (altar). The southeast addition is broader than the main body of the church and protrudes several inches beyond the exterior walls of the main block of the church. This southeast addition has three rectangular windows--each one in a separate plane of the octagon. The end plane is a blank brick wall with a brick chimney rising above the roof. On each side of this chimney is a dormer window. There is a door in the southeast octagon, the plane which is parallel to the southwest wall of the main body of the church.

The roof over the altar is several inches higher than the A-shaped nave roof which continues at the same level and terminates at a cupola marking the apex of the roof of the northwest octagon. This entrance is narrower than the breadth of the church so that the nave protrudes several feet from the place where the addition joins the main body. This end is two stories and has rectangular windows on each story on each visible exterior plane with the exception of the door on the first story at the end plane. A sacristy and confessional are located inside.

The main body of the church has an interior barrel vault ceiling supported by two sets of piers which create the nave and side aisles. There is a dome over the chancel and altar which is located in the southeast octagonal end. The church has simple Federal woodwork and a mid-eighteenth-century reredos.

Newtown Manor House, one hundred yards to the southeast of the church, is a two-and-one-half story brick, five-bay house with a pair of enclosed chimneys on each gable end. The structure has an A roof with a jerkinhead at each end. There is a centrally placed porch on both the northeast and southwest elevations. The house sits on a high brick basement. There is a long one-story, shed-like structure along the northwest gable end.

Newtown Manor House originally had a gambrel roof which was raised and changed to its present shape in 1816.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET *1

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☒ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1766-7 (church), c. 1740 (house);

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☒ Religion/Phi-☒ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

osophy

17th century

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science

Maryland history

☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The St. Francis Xavier Church building has a barrel vault ceiling, unusual in a wood church. Architectural evidence indicates this vaulting is original (1767). The two octagonally-shaped brick ends are unusual, if not unique, features in Maryland ecclesiastical architecture.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

St. Francis Xavier Church and Newtown Manor House Historic District marks a location and site important in the seventeenth-century ecclesiastical history of Maryland. From this area of Newtown Neck and from other locations in Southern Maryland and the Eastern Shore, English Jesuit priests conducted missionary activities among the Indians and ministered to the needs of the settlers beginning in the 1630's and 1640's. In Maryland, as all over North America, the Jesuits were the vanguard of western civilization in the wilderness.

The combination of St. Francis Xavier Church and Newtown Manor House properties is an example of a self-contained Jesuit community made self-supporting by the surrounding 700 acre farm. This type of community was prevalent in the eighteenth century. In 1668 the Jesuits purchased the Manor of Little Bretton, covering all of Newtown Neck. The income from the farm supported the Jesuits and their activities. The actual farm work was usually done by tenants and overseers. This tradition has continued to the present day.

Jesuit activity at Newtown dates back to the 1640's. In 1649 the mission in this locale became formally established. The first church was erected in 1662 after a relaxation of the discrimination against Catholics which accompanied the Restoration. The site of the 1662 church is believed to be in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, about one-third mile to the north.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #21

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recorders: Michael Bourne, Maryland Historical Trust,
94 College Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland 21401; Nancy Miller,
Historian, Maryland Historical Trust.

Beitzell, Edwin W., "A History of St. Francis Xavier Roman
Catholic Church (Old Newtown) The Manor of Little Bretton
St. Mary's County, Maryland." n. p., 1962, Files of the
Maryland Historical Trust.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes Seconds
NW	38° 15' 23"	76° 42' 05"				
NE	38° 15' 23"	76° 41' 55"				
SE	38° 15' 15"	76° 41' 55"				
SW	38° 15' 15"	76° 42' 05"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: sixteen (16) acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Mrs. Preston Parish, Keeper of the Maryland Register

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

Jan. 12, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:

94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the Na-
tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law
89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion
in the National Register and certify that it has been
evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set
forth by the National Park Service. The recommended
level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

Orlando Ridout IV

Title

State Liaison Officer
for Maryland

Date

January 13, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the
National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY St. Mary's	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

St. Francis Xavier Church & Newtown Manor House Historic District

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

A fragment of a brick wall, located near the house, is under archaeological investigation by the St. Mary's County Archaeological Society.

#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

Newtown flourished in the last decades of the seventeenth century while it was the county seat as well as a religious center. After 1695, when the county seat moved, the area played a diminishing roll in the life of overall St. Mary's County. The decline was culminated in 1868 when Leonardtown became the residence of the Jesuit priests.

St. Francis Xavier Church, as a parish church, has continued since its origin in the mid-seventeenth century to minister to the needs of local Roman Catholics.

Local tradition maintains that St. Francis Xavier Church is the oldest Roman Catholic church building in the English colonies.

In 1956 the church received the Haddock Chalice which had belonged to James Haddock, a resident of Newtown from 1690 to about 1704. Haddock had taken the small vessel with him when he left; one of his descendants returned it to the church.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) ~~#~~2

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

St. Francis Xavier Church & Newtown Manor House Historic District

#9. REFERENCES continued

Filteau, Jerome. National Catholic News Service, U. S.
Catholic Conference, Washington, D. C., April 26, 1971.
One of a few Pennsylvania Roman Catholic Churches may
predate St. Francis Xavier as the oldest Catholic Church
in continuous existence in the thirteen English colonies.

St. Mary's County Land Records. Hall of Records, Annapolis,
Maryland.

Federal Direct Tax Assessment 1798. St. Mary's County. Hall
of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

LEONARDTOWN QUADRANGLE
USGS 7.5 minute map (Marvian)
scale: 1" = 24,000'
1963

lat. $38^{\circ} 15' 23''$
long. $76^{\circ} 42' 05''$

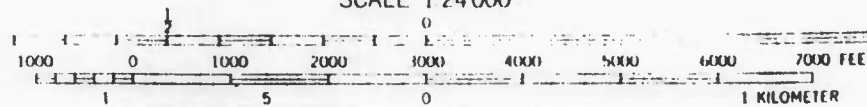
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
CHURCH and NEWTOWN
MANOR HOUSE

lat. $38^{\circ} 15' 15''$
long. $76^{\circ} 42' 05''$

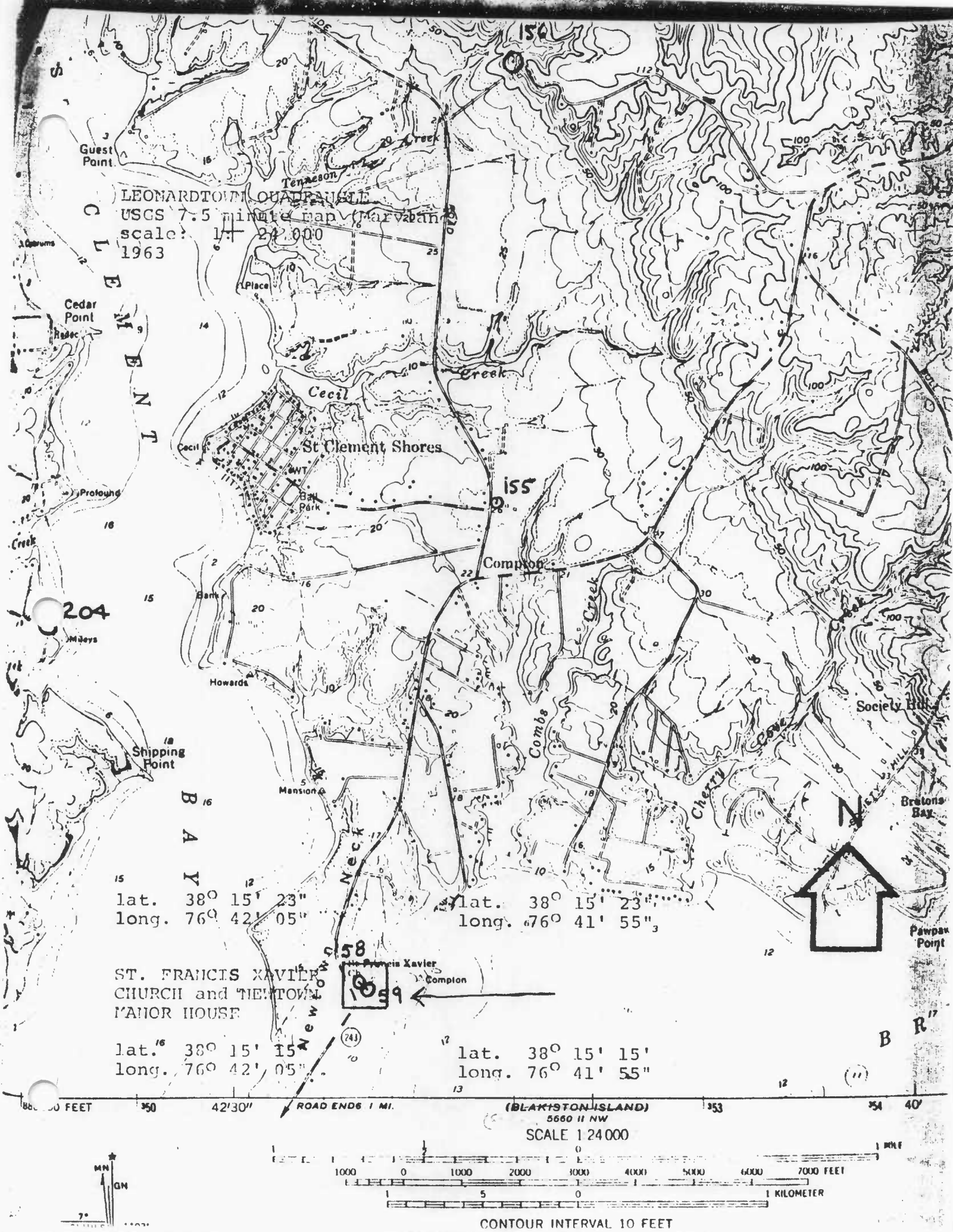
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long. $76^{\circ} 41' 55''$

lat. $38^{\circ} 15' 15''$
long. $76^{\circ} 41' 55''$

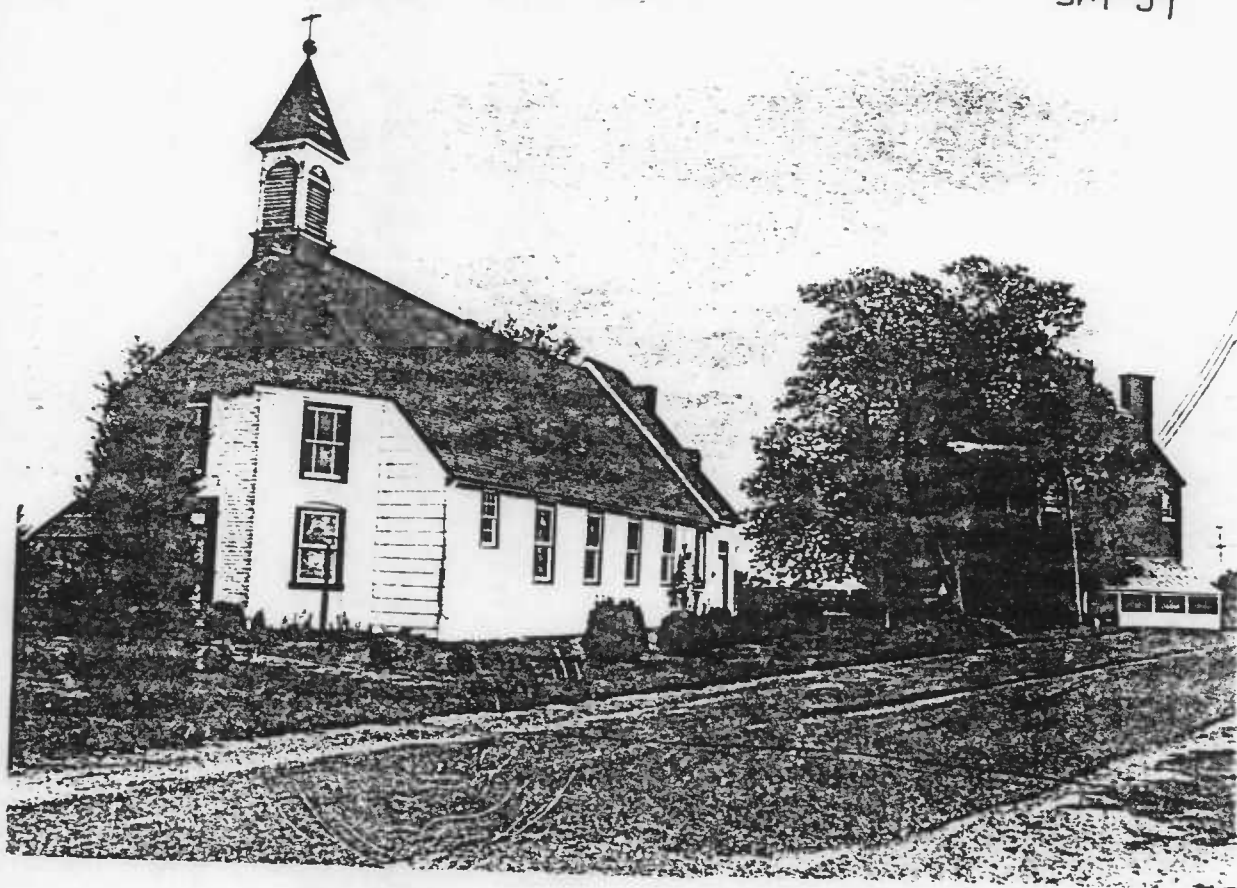
(BLACKISTON ISLAND)
5660 II NW
SCALE 1:24,000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET



SM-59



ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE

STMA-59

NEWTOWN MANOR HOUSE

Compton

circa 1690

Circa 1690 a wing, either new construction or the
original Bretton House ^(circa 1637) ~~moved~~, was added to the Newtown Manor
House for use as a chapel as was permissible in the penal
times. This wing no longer stands.

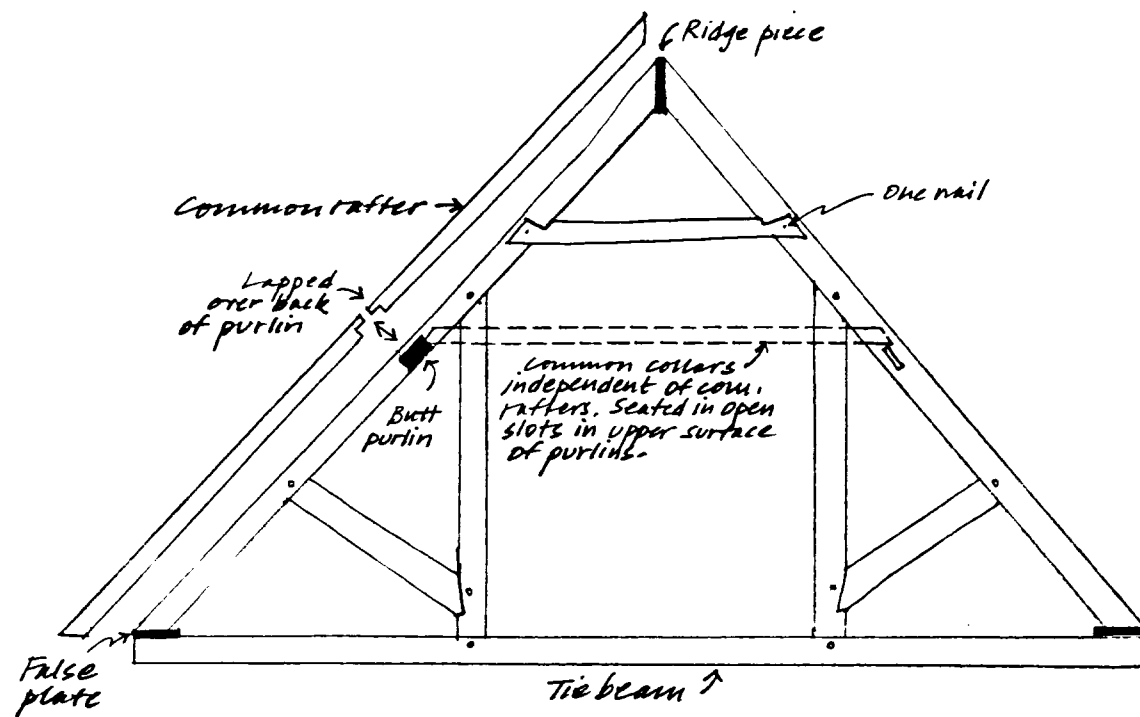
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
GENERAL WORK SHEET FOR "PHOTO-DATA BOOKS"

HABS NO.		
NAME OF STRUCTURE <i>Newtown Manor (STMA-59)</i>		
ADDRESS OR LOCATION <i>Rt. 243</i>		
TOWN OR VICINITY <i>Compton vicinity</i>	COUNTY <i>SMC</i>	STATE <i>MD.</i>
LATITUDE (or attach detailed map, preferably USGS, with site located)	LONGITUDE (or attach detailed map, preferably USGS, with site located)	GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION CODE (to be supplied by HABS)
PRESENT OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS		

1798 U.S. TAX ASSESSMENT				County <i>ST. MARY'S</i> <i>Upper New Town</i> <i>MD</i>	
Occupant <i>Rev'd. (Mullineux)</i>				Property Name/Location <i>on Chillum Bay near Potomak</i>	
Occupation <i>Mullineux, Robert</i>				Adjacent Entries <i>Newtown manor</i>	
Owner <i>Mullineux, Robert</i>				Owner's Total Acres <i>743</i>	Total Property Value <i>7201</i>
Tenant Dwellings				Tenants by Name	
All Slaves <i>39</i> <i>12-60 Yrs</i> <i>15</i> Disabled				Superintendent	
Dwelling Occupied <i>1</i>	Outbuildings <i>7</i>	Lot Acres <i>2</i>	Bldg Value <i>2000</i>	Acres <i>743</i>	Land Value <i>5201</i>
DWELLING Name <i>A dwelling house</i>		Dimensions <i>32X50</i>	Stories <i>one with hip roof</i>	Material <i>brick</i>	Windows No. Dim <i>8.5X2 1/2</i> <i>10.4X2 1/2</i> <i>2.1X1 1/2</i>
OUTBUILDINGS, Etc. (in order listed)					Condition
1. <i>six outhouses</i>		<i>10X12</i> <i>12X28</i> <i>16X24</i> <i>12X12</i> <i>12X16</i> <i>8X18</i> <i>12X18</i>		<i>outhouses of wood</i>	<i>in good repair</i>
7. <i>one outhouse</i>					<i>all in good repair</i> <i>out of repair</i>
A <i>961</i>	B	C	D	E	F
List (General/Particular): Bldgs. Lands UNISORT ANALYSIS CARD <i>I, II, III, IV</i> <i>1</i>				Slaves <i>1</i>	

ROOF: Gable, Common

six to seven pairs of ~~common~~ interrupted common rafters. (Main trusses stand just inside chimney stacks + over load bearing walls.) Both pairs of gable end trusses have curious mortises (filled with cut-off tenons) located on their inner surfaces at about 18" intervals along the full lengths of their inner surfaces.



HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
ARCHITECT'S WORK SHEET FOR "PHOTO-DATA BOOKS"

SM-59

NAME OF STRUCTURE <i>Newtown Manor (STMA-)</i>		LOCALITY NO.	
ADDRESS	(City) <i>Compton</i>	(County) <i>SMC</i>	(State) <i>Md.</i>

GENERAL STATEMENT

ARCHITECTURAL MERIT AND INTEREST:

One story 18thc. vernacular building (probably second half of 18thc.) raised to two stories in 1816.

CONDITION OF FABRIC:

Fair

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXTERIOR

OVER-ALL DIMENSIONS:	NUMBER OF BAYS: <i>Five</i>	NUMBER OF STORIES: <i>Originally one; now two.</i>	LAYOUT, SHAPE: <i>Rectangular</i>
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FOUNDATIONS:

High watertable (4-5') gives headroom to full cellar (see plans).

WALL CONSTRUCTION, FINISH AND COLOR:

Brick, Flemish bond, both construction periods. Five courses of English bond above first floor window heads indicates height of original cornice.

STRUCTURAL SYSTEM, FRAMING:

ARCHES, STOOPS, BULKHEADS, ETC.:

Front + back porches modern. Slots in brickwork beneath doorways only evidence of former porches or stairs.

CHIMNEYS: *Four flush gable stacks, heightened when second floor raised.*

OPENINGS: Doorways and Doors: *Doorways have not been changed. Doors may have some age, but, if so, panels have been replaced with glass. Cellar doorway under round arch in N. corner of W. gable.*

Windows and Shutters: *Windows on N. + S. facades original to their respective periods. All gable windows located in 1816 brickwork, except small light (now blocked) between chimney stacks on W. gable, which originally lit attic. No evidence of any shutters.*

ROOF: Shape, Covering:

18thc.: Steep gambrel (^{straight joint} ~~some time still~~ visible on both gables); gables not hipped (note original attic window on W. gable [see above]).

*1816: Pitch roof, hipped gables between chimney stacks. Roof frame: four principal rafter trusses, braced + strutted [see drawing], one butt purlin half way up each slope, (cont.)
Cornice, Eaves: Very plain box cornice.*

Dormers, Cupolas, Towers:

*18thc.: Dormers must have lit upstairs chambers since there were no gable windows.
1816: No dormers originally. Inserted later (cutting through common rafters); now blocked.*

FLOOR PLANS, 1ST FLOOR

Cellar: Same as other floors. SW part of room is a large fireplace. By
staircase (?) is E room (part of a room).

SM-59

Ground floor: Same as other floors. SW part of room is a large fireplace. By
staircase (?) is E room (part of a room). All rooms have fireplaces.

Second floor: same as ground floor. All chambers communicate only with central
hallway. All rooms have fireplaces.

Attic: One large room on E. Two small chambers on W. Plastered, but no fireplaces.

STAIRWAYS: straight run from ground floor hallway to second floor (ascends north to south).
Attic stairs immediately above. Cellar steps descent

FLOORING:

WALL AND CEILING FINISH:

DOORWAYS AND DOORS:

SPECIAL DECORATIVE FEATURES, TRIM AND CABINET WORK:

See molding profiles. Richest molding in hallways, upstairs + down, + in SW parlor
and chamber immediately above.

NOTABLE HARDWARE:

All plain H+L hinges, except for two pair of foliated hinges on cupboard in NE
chamber.

MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT: (Heating, Lighting and Plumbing Systems and Fixtures of Note)

scaffold holes visible on both gables.

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

GENERAL SETTING: (Including Orientation by Compass Reading)

Faces south towards Breton Bay.

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE DESIGN:

OUTBUILDINGS:

PREPARED BY: (Signature)

Cary Carson

DATE OF VISIT:

February 28, 1975

CONTINUATIONS: Any of the entries above may be continued on additional sheets.

1637 - 1638

In the years 1637 - 1638 the Dutchman, Peter Minuit, left Sweden for Delaware with a company of Swedes and Finns. In the colonies, Roger Williams obtained a deed of the land around Providence. Williams also granted Anne Hutchinson and her fellow exiles land which was later to become Newport (Rhode Island). The year 1638 also saw an earthquake which shook the entire portion of New England and lasted 15 days. Finally, John Harvard founded Harvard College.

And Newtown Manor was established as the Manor of Little Bretton originally granted by Cecilius, Lord Baltimore, to William Bretton, July 10, 1640. It is also the time of Father Thomas Copley, S.J., when he gathered his congregation to celebrate Mass at the home of Luke Gardiner.

1640 - 1642

A fugitive from Virginia settled on Albermarle Sound and thus became the first settler in present day North Carolina. War in the colonies became a reality between the settlers and the Indians as a result of a massacre of 100 Algonquins under orders of the governor of the Dutch colony. The Church of England was established as the official church of the English colonies. The Puritans, victims of religious persecution, took refuge at Providence (Annapolis) in the colony of Maryland. An unknown person in Windsor, in the colony in Connecticut, was executed for the crime of witchcraft. Charles I was beheaded and England was declared a Commonwealth and "Free State" under the dictatorship of Oliver Cromwell. Bigotry and persecution reigned in the colony of Massachusetts; the anabaptists were fined and scourged; irreligion was made a crime; absence from church was made a civil offense; and the denial of any book of the Bible was punished by fine, stripes, exile, and death in the year 1649.

And the Maryland Assembly passed an act granting complete religious toleration to all Christians. This act was passed with the active support of three members of the Newtown parish.

1653

In England, Oliver Cromwell forcibly dissolved the "Long Parliament" and assumed his position as "Protector." The General Court of Massachusetts prohibited preaching except by leave of the civil authorities. Also, in the name of religion, Goody Knapp was executed at Fairfield, Connecticut as a witch. Politically, William Clayborne and the Governor of Virginia (Bennett) set aside Lord Baltimore's

authority and after a hard fought civil war defeated Governor Stone and the Maryland colonists. Thus the persecuted Puritans who found a haven in Maryland now repaid the tolerance of Lord Baltimore by becoming religiously intolerant and persecuting the Catholics and Anglicans.

1653 And in 1653, Ralph Crouch founded a school for learning at Newton with the stipulation that it be used "...to teach eyther Protestants or Catholikes."

1663 An insurrection in Virginia by white "servants" is easily suppressed; barbarous laws are enacted against the slaves; and the laws against nonconformists are made more severe.

And at Newtown Neck, the first Catholic Church in the English colonies was built.

In the above brief summary of early English history in the New World it can be easily seen that Newtown Manor, and later St. Francis Xavier Church, witnessed the trials and struggles of nation-founding. During the era of the Protestant Rebellion (the ascension of William and Mary to the English throne in 1689), which covered the next four decades, the first church and the schools at Newtown Neck were destroyed or fell into disrepair as a result of the intolerance shown Catholics by the Puritan government. These anti-Catholic persecutions are referred to as the "anti-Popery" laws and were designed to destroy the Catholic Church and its teachings. It is interesting to note that while services within Catholic churches were forbidden, the construction of chapels attached to private homes were not. Therefore, at Newtown Manor, a chapel was constructed beside the manor and connected to it. (According to a very knowledgeable man who is also our chief historian and a Board member, Mr. Beitzell, one can still trace the outline of the chapel when the weather turns dry in the summer months.) This chapel was utilized until 1766 when the present church, St. Francis Xavier, was built under the direction of Father James Ashby.

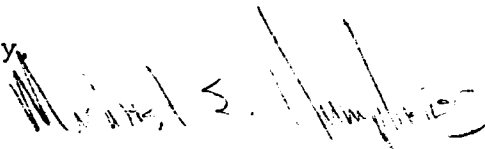
Since 1766 both Newtown Manor and St. Francis Xavier Church have seen American history parade forth in review. Both of these buildings were the victims of the English troops during the American Revolution and the War of 1812. Many of St. Francis Xavier's parishioners have made the supreme sacrifice for their country or received injuries during the War Between The States, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

However, the purpose of this article is not to laud the manor house or the church but to call attention to the deplorable condition of these two edifices. The manor house, while not as ruinous as the church, is in need of a new roof and other repairs. If this is not done immediately, water will continue to weaken the walls and place the manor in danger of total collapse. The church has been deemed "unsafe" and services have been discontinued in this, the oldest Catholic church in the English Colonies. Before the church can be returned to its parishioners and visitors it must be completely restored.

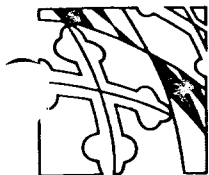
Therefore, a new society has been founded in St. Mary's County; The St. Mary's County Archaeological Society. This unusual name evolved from a purely archaeological excavation and anthropological study to to one of a restoration seminar. The society is composed of non-demoninational citizens whose immediate objective is to obtain a new roof for the manor house in order to arrest further deterioration. The long range goal is to completely restore Newtown Manor and St. Francis Xavier Church as well as other buildings in St. Mary's County. Also, under consideration, is a museum containing artifacts unearthed in the immediate area of Newtown Neck, an archaeological exploration of the various building foundations in and around the manor house, an active tourist publicity committee to exclaim the historic value of the manor and church, and, finally, a picnic area to attract tourists.

Membership in the St. Mary's County Archaeological Society is open to all persons interested in furthering the protection, excavation, and restoration of historical buildings and sites in St. Mary's County. Further, it is the philosophy of the St. Mary's County Archaeological Society to prevent our history from passing into oblivion during these "troubled times" when the youth of today and tomorrow need tangible evidence of their cultural and historical heritage. We feel that we owe St. Francis Xavier Church and Newtown Manor the right of a continual existence. It is mandatory that we do this ... and soon!

Sincerely,



Michael E. Humphries, Acting President
St. Mary's County Archaeological Society



St. Maries City
Founded 1634

RECEIVED

MAR 14 1983

March 10, 1983

MARYLAND HISTORICAL
TRUST

Mr. Orlando Ridout, V
Maryland Historical Trust
21 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Orlando:

Enclosed are some notes on the brick priest's house at Newtown Neck. Did I send you copies of my notes on Third Haven? Have you sent me your notes from Third Haven?

Sincerely yours,

Garry

Garry Wheeler Stone
Archaeologist

GWS:tmc

Enclosure

Priest's House, Newtown Plantation

Cellar Doors and Windows

Three of the five cellar doorways have original frames and doors. (Doors 3, 4, and 5 on plan.) Door 2 appears to be original, but its frame is different from frames 3, 4, and 5. Either frame #2 has been replaced, or (as narrower than the others) it may always have been different. Door frame and door 1 are late 19th or early 20th-century replacements, although they are old enough to be now interesting in their own right.

Doors 2-5 are constructed of vertical plank and horizontal battens (see photographs). The planks (only 3 or 4 per door) are beaded and half-lapped, and the wide (9½ to 11") battens have chamfered edges. The upper half of door 5 is louvered to ventilate the root cellar. These doors are 3'-11" to 4'-½" wide. (Door 2 is 3'-5 ¾" wide.) The door openings are 3'-11" to 4'-0" wide and 5'-6" high, with the openings within the trim being ¾" wider.

Hardware: The hinges appear to be a miscellaneous collection of old barn and house hinges reused during the 1780s construction -- some of these hinges may be reused from the early 18th-century priests' house. Two of the doors (4 and 5) exhibit the ghosts of large stock locks and corresponding latch holes in the door frames. Door frame 3 has a latch hole, but not readily visible evidence that a lock was ever mounted on this door. The lock on door 2 is Victorian, while door 1 has a rebuilt wooden latch. Only one piece of the latch is old (late 19th-century). It exhibits the light, elegant construction usual when carpenters were accustomed to working with green local hardwood. Door 1 has a simple ring pull of traditional design, but probably of recent date.

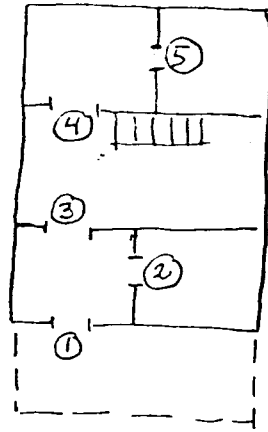
Door frames 3-5 are of surprisingly sophisticated construction. While they have mortised, tenoned, and pinned rough frames, the frames are fully trimmed out with beaded boards (see drawing of frame number 3). The frame sills and lintels have ears that were entrapped in the brick walls when the cellar was constructed.

Door 1 may be reused. Frame 1 is a simple, mortised and tenon framed constructed of 3 by 6 timbers. The frame is rabbeted for the door.

The cellar wall under the house porch has two original cellar windows constructed of wood bars set in heavy frames. One frame retains the wooden latches of a window board/shutter that once kept out winter drafts.

Garry Wheeler Stone
St. Mary's City Commission
3 September 1982

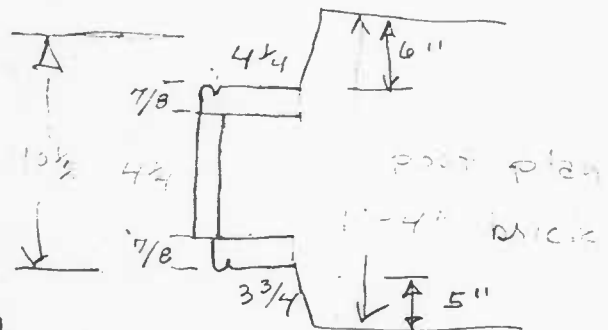
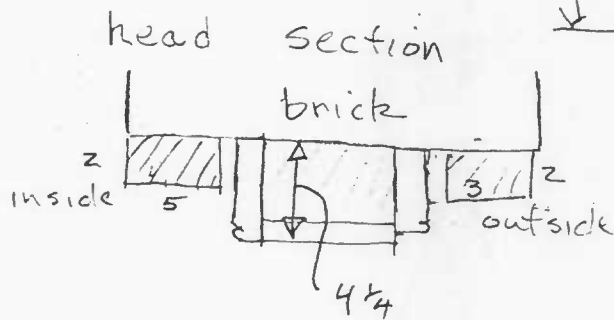
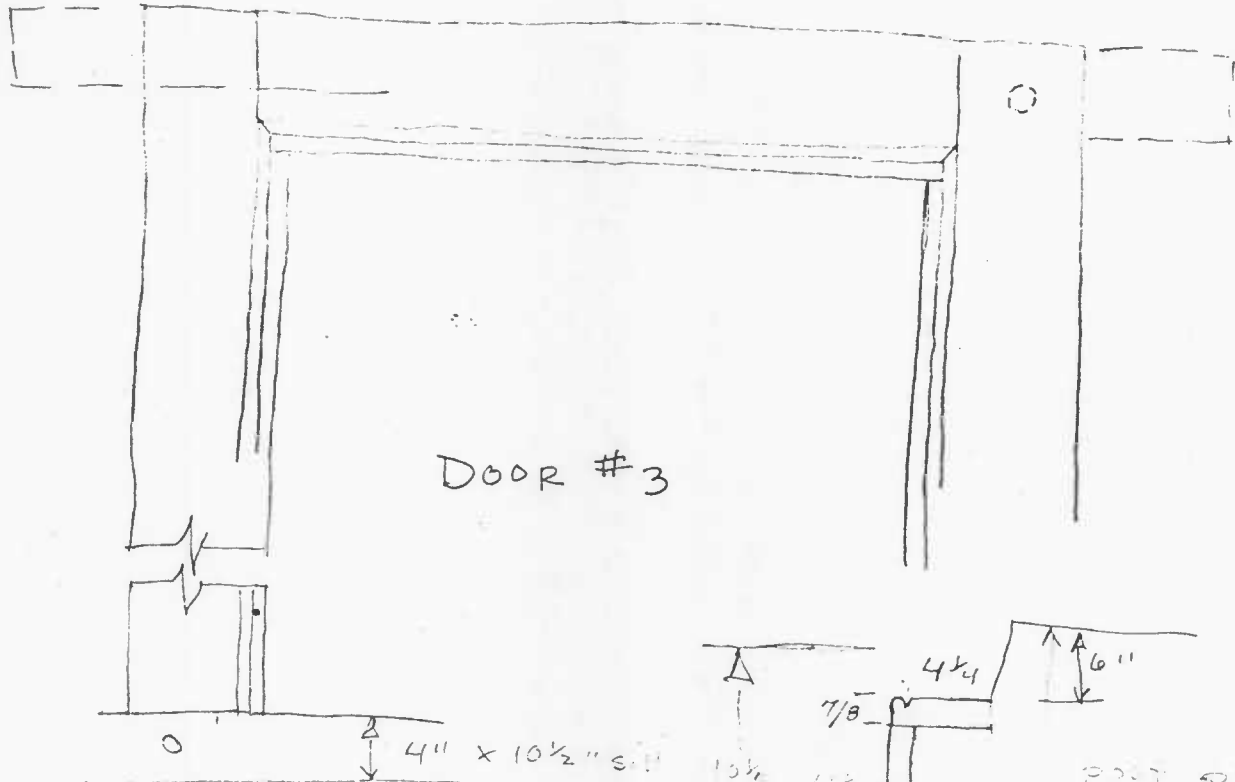
SM-59
Cellar Doors



SM-59
Cellar Doors
3 sept 82

South Face

4"



Main lintel, supplementary lintels, & sill
let back into brickwork

Garry Store



NEWTOWN MANOR

Soon after 1661

The "Mannor of Little Britain (or Bretton)" was patented in 1640 by William Bretton, who had come to Maryland in 1637. In 1661 he presented the Jesuits with part of this manor, hence the present house "Newtown" is called a manor. The ancient square chapel beside the house has gone, but traces of its foundations are evident.

As may be seen on the manor gable, the original roof was gambrel. It had a double tier of dormers. The four rooms

on the first floor are of the same size and character. Down in the basement is the Kitchen with a large fireplace.

Close by this house is the Church of St. Francis Xavier, built in 1767 on the octagonal plan.

View: From South.

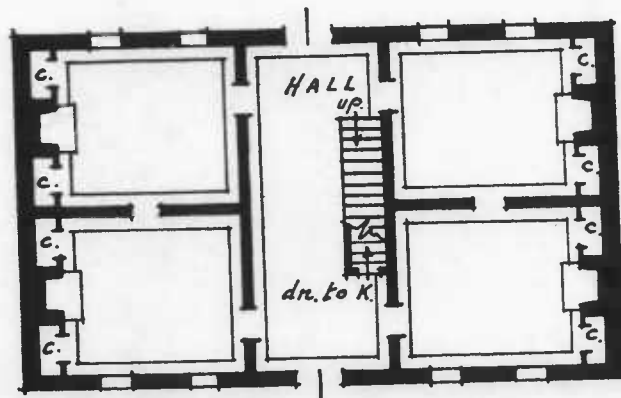
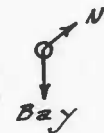
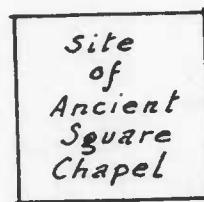
Dimensions:

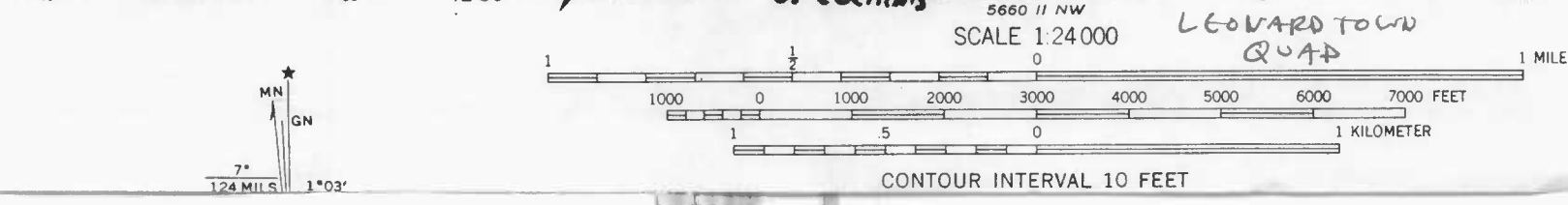
Overall, 50-0 by 30-0.

Grade to floor, 5-8.

Ceiling, 11-3.

Cellar ceiling, 7-1.



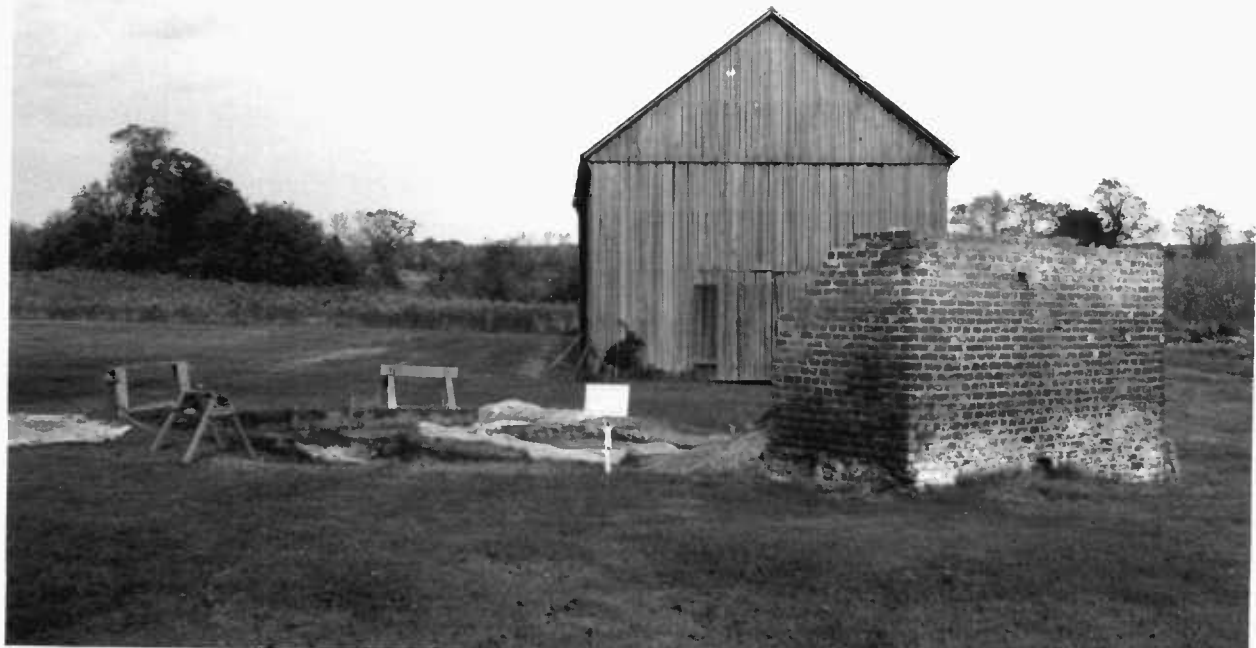




SM-59 Newtown Manor House



SM-59 Newtown Manor House



SM-59 Newborn 11/05/2005







Sm-59 Newtonman Manor House with Sm-58 in foreground



JM-59 Newtown Manor House



SM-59

Newtown Manor House

St. Mary's County, Md

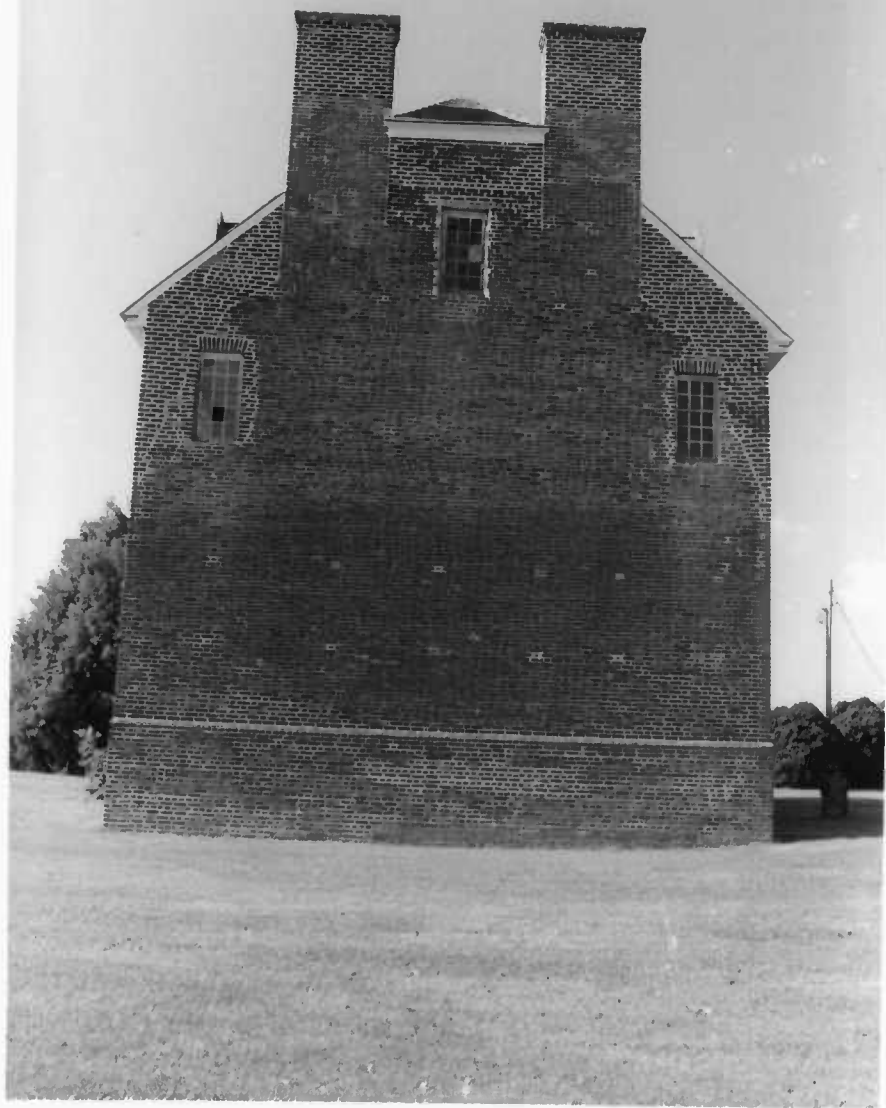
Kirk Ranzetta

Md SHPO

Nov 1999

N + W elevation

1 of 2



SM-59

Newtown Manor House

St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Ranzetta

Md SHPO

Nov 1999

Elevation

2 of 2



SM-59

Newtown Manor House

St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Ranzetta

Md S#10

Nov 1999

Newtown Neck Manor House (foreground) + St. Francis Xavier Church - background (SM-58)

3 of 3



507-59 Newtown Manor House